

# SPARK GAP

Vol. 29, Issue 4, April 2012 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for twenty-eight Years*

On Our MARC...

While the mention of the word hamfest often conjures up a flea-market-type image in our minds, they are indeed much more. As I made my way through the through the rows of tables at Columbus a couple of weekends ago, I couldn't help but notice all that was taking place. Of course, there was the traditional "wheeling and dealing," as radios, antennas, and accessories changed hands. At the same time, call signs were being matched with faces; new friends were being made; casual acquaintances were being renewed; and old friends were catching up. As stories and advice were traded over cups of coffee, two things were in plentiful supply...smiles and laughter. Hamfests are social events and a lot of fun!

In the coming weeks there will be a wide variety of hamfests across the State of Indiana and throughout the Midwest. Why not consider making a day-trip or two and hitting the road to support your fellow hams and their clubs? Don't forget the granddaddy of them all, the Dayton Hamvention, is coming up May 18th-20th.

Bob - KC9NJM  
*President*

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## Dayton Hamvention® 2012 May 18-20 2012

<http://hamvention.org/>

In just a few weeks it will once again be time for the Dayton Hamvention 2012. As usual and customary the event will be held at the Hara Arena in the Dayton, Ohio. Please check out the website for all that will be going on this year. You can even order your tickets on the web site and they will be mailed to you.

If you can make the Hamvention this year you can still follow it by a few web casts and a web site that is there to let you see what is going on in and around the Flee Market area. This is through the majic of the W5KUB "W5KUB's HelmetCam".

I hope you can make it to the Hamvention this year; it is truly part of our American traditions in Amateur Radio.



### ***ARRL Field Day Overview***

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. Each year over 35,000 amateurs gather with their clubs, friends or simply by themselves to operate.

ARRL Field Day is not a fully adjudicated contest, which explains much of its popularity. It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, most groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local elected community leaders, key individuals with the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

ARRL Field Day is held on Saturday June 23rd through June 24<sup>th</sup>. MARC has participated in the last few years and the event is open to the public as well as all licensed radio amateurs. There will be more about ARRL Field Day in the next issue of the Spark Gap after a location has been selected.

ARRL Field Day is a great time for the new ham to get familiar with the different modes of operation and station set up for emergencies.



# SOMETHING NEW IN COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

## Raspberry Pi on Japanese TV

The **Raspberry Pi** computer board seems to be attracting interest in Japan and recently featured on Japanese TV. As supplied the unit is uncased and it is likely that many consumers will continue using it in that fashion as did the presenters on the Japanese TV show.



The Raspberry Pi is a miniature ARM-based computer board which is sure to find many applications in Amateur Radio, however, there may be concerns about Radio Pollution in amateur radio usage if the unit is left uncased. Possible amateur radio applications include satellite tracking, SSTV, image processing, digital modes, CW and antenna polar plots. Given its low price the Raspberry Pi may well see sales of several hundred thousand in the UK and many millions world-wide.

Although EMC testing wasn't initially thought necessary it has now been done and details can be seen at

<http://www.raspberrypi.org/archives/tag/ce-compliance>

A video of the Japanese TV show featuring the Raspberry PI was released on the RScomponentsJapan YouTube channel titled 20120412\_TX\_WBS.wmv but was suddenly removed following publicity on a number of non-Japanese websites. A copy may still be on the web somewhere.

Raspberry Pi Board

<http://elinux.org/RaspberryPiBoard>

Raspberry Pi

<http://www.raspberrypi.org/>

Twitter:

[http://twitter.com/raspberry\\_pi](http://twitter.com/raspberry_pi)

China Export CE Marking Myth

<http://www.cemarking.net/chinese-export/>

# MARC Meeting for April 21, 2012

## Guest Speaker

Just a quick reminder of our April MARC meeting this Saturday at 8AM. Our guest speaker is Stephen Ellis-KK4BXD. He will be sharing some long lost secrets about the Air Force in a program titled

***"Link Trainers tech school Memories & importance of Playboy to SR-71."***

..... Jack W8ISH

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### FCC Seeks Public Comments on Emergency Communications by Amateur Radio and Impediments to Amateur Radio Communications

In response to the Congressional directive to prepare a study to assess Amateur Radio's role in emergency and disaster communications and the impact of private land use regulations on the amateur community's ability to provide such communications, the FCC issued DA 12-523 soliciting comments from the public. The period for public comment runs until May 17, 2012.

"As part of the study contained in Public Law No. 112-96, the Commission has opened a 45 day period for comments to be filed on the issue," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. "Because of the short deadline for the study to be completed and presented to Congress -- before the end of August -- the ARRL and the amateur community must quickly mobilize their response."

The FCC *Public Notice* focuses on two specific areas for comments. The first is the role that Amateur Radio has played and continues to play to support emergency and disaster relief organizations, such as FEMA and local/state emergency management agencies. The second is to determine impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications. This would include the impact that private land-use regulations -- such as deed restrictions and homeowner association covenants -- have on the ability of licensed amateurs to fully participate in providing support communications to the served agencies.

"This study is not about zoning ordinances or regulations adopted by the local or state governments," Henderson explained. "Amateurs already have the limited protection of **PRB-1** to assist them with those situations. The areas of concern here are the limitations that are placed on a property when it is purchased, either as part of the deed of sale or by restrictions imposed by the neighborhood/homeowner's association. Those restrictions -- sometimes referred to as CC&Rs -- are not currently covered by the FCC's PRB-1 decision from 1985."

To allow the ARRL to quickly collect and collate relevant information from the amateur community to help support the filing it will make with the FCC on this issue, a website has been setup. The site -- [www.arrl.org/ccr-study-information](http://www.arrl.org/ccr-study-information) -- provides details about what kind of information is needed by the ARRL.

Also on the site, you will find links to two online data collection forms. The first form allows you to provide information about specific emergency communications in which Amateur Radio has played a role since January 2000. The second form asks for specific information on the CC&Rs/deed restrictions that control your property. It also asks you to provide information on how those restrictions have impacted your ability to fully support emergency communications.

"Whether you are an ARRL member or not, your information and situation are important to helping us make the case for all amateurs," Henderson said. "Whether your support communications are with ARES®, RACES, SKYWARN, CERT or other emergency and disaster groups, your voice should be heard. If you cannot operate effectively from home during an emergency because CC&Rs prohibit adequate antennas on your property, that is important to document and quantify. This issue affects all of Amateur Radio, not just ARRL members."

Henderson said that due to the short timeframe that the FCC has allotted for public comment, time is of the essence. In order to allow the ARRL to develop its comments, the ARRL asks that all information sent by the amateur community be received at the ARRL no later than April 25, 2012: "We realize this is a very short turnaround asking for your response, but this is based on the time provided by the Commission for the comment window."

It is important that when you provide specifics of your CC&R, you also provide the ARRL with a copy of its actual wording. If you have the CC&R in a digital format (or you can scan the document into a file), it can either be uploaded through the website above or it can be sent via an e-mail to [CCRinfo@arrl.org](mailto:CCRinfo@arrl.org). If you do not have an electronic format, a hard copy may be sent via US mail to: CCR Study Information, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"We need factual, specific details," Henderson said. "The more accurate information we have -- including copies of the CC&R language -- the stronger case we can make. Having copies of the exact CC&Rs is important. It allows us to demonstrate the wide variation of restrictions. Including the specific text is as important as any other piece of information you provide."

If you have questions about what is being requested, you may contact the ARRL Regulatory Information Office via [e-mail](mailto:reginfo@arrl.org). "Again, time is of the essence in this matter," Henderson said. "This is the best opportunity that amateurs have had to address the impact of overly burdensome private land use restrictions. If Amateur Radio is to succeed in this effort, it is going to take all of us working together."

..... ARRL News April 2012 ©

## 2012 Indiana Hamfests

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|-------------------|---|
| <b>Feb 25</b>     | <b>Cabin Fever Hamfest</b> , LaPorte Civic Auditorium, LaPorte IN, 7 AM till 1 PM CST, <a href="http://k9jsi.org/">http://k9jsi.org/</a> , Info <a href="mailto:N9ROH@csinet.net">N9ROH@csinet.net</a>  |
| <b>Feb 25</b>     | Brownsburg Hamfest, American Legion Post 331, Brownsburg IN, 6AM-3:30PM, Talk-in 147.015+, Contact: K9MSG <a href="mailto:dlucas002@indy.rr.com">dlucas002@indy.rr.com</a>                              |
| <b>March 3</b>    | <b>Dugger Hamfest</b> , Dugger Community Building, South Hicum Street (just off State Road 54) Dugger, IN 47848, <a href="http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html">http://www.kc9ak.org/hamfest.html</a>      |
| <b>March 10</b>   | <b>Terre Haute Hamfest</b> , Indiana State University Dede Activity Center, Terre Haute IN, <a href="http://w9uuu.org/">http://w9uuu.org/</a>   |
| <b>March 31</b>   | <b>Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest</b> , Community Building in Columbus, Indiana <a href="http://www.carcnet.org/">http://www.carcnet.org/</a>  |
| <b>April 21</b>   | <b>North Central Indiana Hamfest</b> , Miami County 4-H Fairground, Miami County Road 200 North & Mexico Road, Peru IN <a href="http://www.nci-hamfest.net/">http://www.nci-hamfest.net/</a>            |
|                   |   |
| <b>July 14</b>    | <b>Indianapolis Hamfest</b> , Camp Sertoma, Indianapolis, <a href="http://www.indyhamfest.com">http://www.indyhamfest.com</a>   |
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| <b>Oct. 6</b>     | <b>Hoosier Hills Hamfest</b> , Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds, 11261 US Hwy 50 West., Bedford , <a href="http://www.w9qyq.org/">http://www.w9qyq.org/</a>   |
|                   |   |
| <b>Nov. 17-18</b> | <b>Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest &amp; Computer Expo</b> , Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, <a href="http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com">http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com</a> |
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# MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome, you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

**WA9RDF**  
**Repeater**  
**146.835/**  
**146.235 MHz**  
**151.4 Hz PL Tone**

**Club Officers:**  
**President: Robert Jones – KC9NJM**  
**Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT**  
**Secretary: Bruce Tisdale – K9ICP**  
**Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG**  
**Repeater Trustee: Jay Chrismon – AA9YP**

**Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS**

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## ***The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club***

*P.O. Box 836  
Franklin, Indiana  
46131*

***Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU***

***Please send your articles to my email [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month***

